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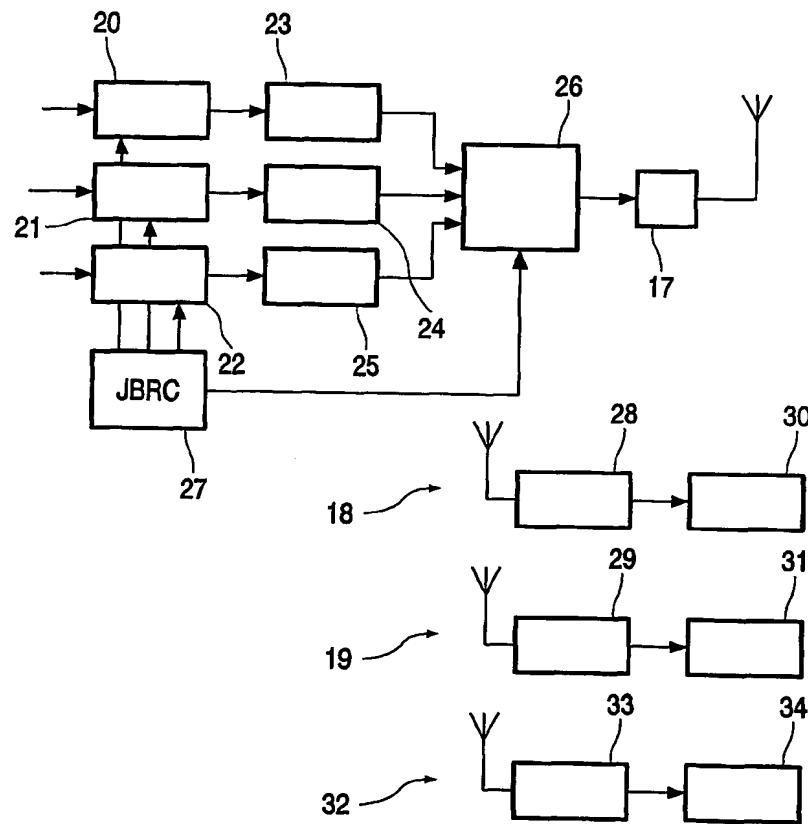
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(54) Title: AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT TRANSMISSION



(57) Abstract: An in-home audio-visual transmission system comprises a gateway 15, having for example three input channels. On each channel is a transcoder 20-22 and a buffer 23-25. At each of three destination stations 18, 19, 32 is included a buffer 28, 29, 33 and a decoder 30, 31, 34. The system aims to provide in respect of each channel a predetermined buffering delay, which is distributed between the gateway 15 and the relevant receiver. Following a channel-change, switch-on or similar condition, the buffer for a channel is empty. Following such an event, reduced speed playback is effected at the destination station, which allows playback to be effected whilst the buffer fullness is increased. Reduced speed playback is preferably effected by inclusion in the transcoders 20-22 of means for including in an MPEG2 stream time stamps which result in the repetition of fields at the destination stations. Audio signals may be subjected to frame repetition so as to avoid a reduction in pitch.



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